

ABSTRACT

A rack shaft ~~(110)~~ has a rolling contact surface ~~(110b)~~ on the opposite side of rack teeth ~~(110a)~~ across
5 an axis line X, and a pair of slanted surfaces ~~(110c,~~
~~110c)~~ extending in parallel with the axis line across
the rolling contact surface ~~(110b)~~. Furthermore, a
roller ~~(123)~~ rolling on the rolling contact surface
~~(110b)~~ of the rack shaft ~~(110)~~ and an urging member
10 ~~(130)~~ having contact with the pair of slanted surfaces
~~(110c, 110c)~~ for applying an urging force are provided.
The urging member ~~(130)~~ is attached to the housing
~~(101)~~, forms an annular configuration surrounding the
entire circumference of the rack shaft ~~(110)~~, and has
15 contact portions ~~(130b, 130b)~~ having contact with the
pair of slanted surfaces ~~(110c, 110c)~~ to apply the
urging force. Therefore, the force exerted on the rack
shaft ~~(110)~~ by a pinion ~~(103a)~~ can be supported by a
cylindrical roller ~~(123)~~ contacting with the rolling
20 contact surface ~~(110b)~~. Moreover, it is possible to
restrain a rotational displacement of the rack shaft
~~(110)~~ about the axis line by applying the urging force
against the pair of slanted surfaces ~~(110c, 110c)~~ of
the rack shaft ~~(110)~~ by the contacting portions ~~(130b,~~
25 ~~130b)~~ of the urging member ~~(130)~~. Also, since the
urging member ~~(130)~~ has an annular configuration, it is

~~advantageously possible to easily attach or detach the urging member (130) to or from the housing (101) without using a connecting member such as adhesive or a screw.~~